

New Species and new Records of Elaterid Beetles from the Pacific—IV¹

By R. H. VAN ZWALUWENBURG

EXPERIMENT STATION HAWAIIAN SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION, HONOLULU

Through the courtesy of Hugh B. Leech and Dr. Edward S. Ross, the writer recently had the opportunity to examine a collection of Elateridae from the southwest Pacific, belonging to the California Academy of Sciences. In addition to new locality records, the collection contains four hitherto undescribed species, and one new variety. All type material has been returned to the California Academy of Sciences.

***Compsolacon glirinus* (Candèze)**

Four specimens taken by A. J. Walz on Bougainville, Solomon Islands, were collected as follows: three at Piva, December, 1944 and May, 1945, a fourth at Empress Augusta Bay, June, 1945. This is a new record for this archipelago, the species having previously been known only from Fiji and from the New Hebrides.

***Compsolacon gracilis* (Candèze)**

As noted in the third paper of this series (these PROCEEDINGS, 13:265) there occurs in the Marianas and on Moen in the Truk atoll, a form of *gracilis* which, if it is that species, certainly is atypical. The present collection contains six more specimens of this questionable *C. gracilis*, taken on Moen by R. W. L. Potts between February 3 and April 27, 1949.

***Alaus guamensis*, new species**

Male, 16 mm. long; female, 19 mm. long.

Robust, moderately convex. Pubescence above and beneath uniform, ashy, without mottling, and (except for a faintly tawny area on either side of the disc of the pronotum) uniform in color.

Front broadly, triangularly impressed. Antennae black; short, attaining middle of prothorax (female) or somewhat beyond (male); segment 2 small, subglobular; 3-10 triangular, subequal; 11 longer than 10, constricted on apical one-third.

Prothorax longer than wide; sides subparallel on basal one-half (female), or for most of its length (male). Pronotum moderately convex; punctation on disc fine, close; hind angles wide, outcurved and divergent, strongly, bluntly unicarinate. Basal declivity moderate.

Scutellum declivous in single plane; heavily pubescent; longer than wide, widest just behind middle; apex broadly rounded.

Elytra at humeri about as wide as prothorax across hind angles. Sides subparallel to about middle (male) or beyond (female), thence conjointly narrowed to apex; apex of each wingcover deeply emarginate, both angles spinose, the outer one the longer. Third elytral interval anteriorly with short, moderately prominent ridge which posteriorly approaches the suture. Mucro subhorizontal; sides of mesosternal cavity horizontal, diverging anteriorly.

¹ The earlier papers with this title were published as follows: I, Bishop Museum Occ. Papers, vol. xvi, no. 5: 91-130, 6 figs., October 18, 1940; II, Proc. Hawaiian Ent. Soc., vol. 11, no. 3: 289-300, 3 figs., August, 1943; III, I.c., vol. 13, no. 2: 265-276, 6 figs., April 26, 1948.

Holotype (probable) female, Point Ritidian, Guam, August 9, 1945, G. E. Bohart and J. L. Gressitt colls., Naval Med. Research 2; allotype (probable) male, same data.

In this species no well-defined character (such as differences in the pubescence which clothes the last sternite) serves to separate the sexes. In the foregoing description the sexes were distinguished by differences in relative length and width of prothorax, and by the differences in outline of prothorax and of elytra found to be usual between male and female. The most striking feature of *Alaus guamensis* is the almost complete uniformity in the color of the pubescence. Due to abrasion there is a bare median line on the pronotum of the holotype.

Dioxypterus leverii Van Zwaluwenburg

One specimen: Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Naval Air Base, April, 1945, G. E. Bohart. This is a new island record for the Solomons.

Dioxypterus montrouzieri Fleutiaux

One specimen: Piva, Bougainville, Solomon Islands, December, 1944, A. J. Walz. This insect was described from the Solomons, but this is the first specific island record I have encountered.

Simodactylus risbeci Fleutiaux

A specimen taken by W. Bauer in May, 1943, on Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, appears to be a new island record for this species, hitherto reported only from Ambrym and Pentecost islands in the same archipelago.

Simodactylus trukensis, new species

Males, 14.5-19.0 mm. long; females, 15.0-21.0 mm. long.

Elongate; dark reddish brown with head and pronotum sometimes piceous; pubescence short, fulvous.

Head usually widely concave on anterior one-third, with a distinct median impression behind the middle; front finely margined, acutely rounded on middle, especially in male; punctation close, moderately fine. Antennae elongate, reaching beyond middle of metasternum (female) or beyond middle of 2nd apparent abdominal sternite (male); segment 2 subglobular; 3-10 subtriangular with outer angle somewhat produced, the segments becoming progressively narrower and more rectangular as apex of antenna is approached; 3-10 (and sometimes 11 faintly) longitudinally carinate on outer face; 11 longer than 10, elongate-oval, acutely narrowed apically.

Prothorax of male slightly wider across base of hind angles than median length, sides converging from base of hind angles to anterior one-fifth; in male, measured at same points, the prothorax is about as long as wide, with sides subparallel from base of hind angles to about anterior one-sixth. Hind angles elongate, diverging from outline of sides, finely bicarinate. Disc of pronotum flattened with suggestion of median channel; punctation fine, close, somewhat coarser laterad; basal declivity short, abrupt.

Scutellum longer than wide; strongly narrowed apically.

Elytra at humeri slightly wider than width of prothorax across tips of hind angles; sides parallel to about middle (male) or beyond (female), thence conjointly narrowed to apex; wingcovers dehiscent at apex, tips finely spinose. Striae consisting of rather shallow, close-set punctures, intervals convex, more strongly so toward base. Mucro slightly upturned behind fore coxae; subapical tooth blunt. Sides of mesosternal cavity horizontal and strongly V-shaped on basal half; perpendicular anteriorly. Lobes of tarsal segments 3 and 4 weakly developed.

Holotype female, Moen Is., Truk atoll, Caroline Islands, Civil Administration Area, April 19, 1949, at light, R. W. L. Potts; allotype

male, same data, April 21, 1949. Paratypes as follows: 5 females, same locality, April 2 to 19, 1949, at light, R. W. L. Potts; 7 males, same locality, March 20 to April 21, 1949, R. W. L. Potts.

The elytra are unusually elongate for the genus, their length being about three times that of the head and thorax. The sides of the mesosternal cavity are horizontal posteriorly and perpendicularly precipitous anteriorly, in this respect resembling *Simodactylus prominens* Van Zwaluwenburg from Manus Island. However, *S. trukensis*, with its larger size, and particularly with its very long antennae, can hardly be mistaken for the other species.

Conoderus pallipes (Eschscholtz)

New island records for this widespread species are Espiritu Santo, New Hebrides, May 20, 1943, W. Bauer, and Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, January, 1921 (Van Dyke collection).

Melanoxanthus cuneolus Schwarz

A new island record for this species comes from Tondano, in the northern Celebes. Two specimens from the Hadden collection in the California Academy of Sciences, collected by Van Braekel, April 1, 1932, are identical with a specimen from Brunei, Borneo, identified as *M. cuneolus* by the late Edmond Fleutiaux. The species was described from British North Borneo and Sumatra.

Melanoxanthus longicollis Fleutiaux *suturalis* new variety

The elytra of *M. longicollis* from Mindanao are described as yellowish with only the apex black. The present variety has more extensive black markings than typical individuals; these are disposed as follows:

- (1) Almost the entire posterior one-half of the elytra black.
- (2) Anterior half of elytra with black band along suture, from 2 to 3 intervals wide on each wingcover.
- (3) Anterior half of elytra with black band of varying width along lateral margin.

Minor differences in outline of pronotum and in degree of truncation of the end of the elytra are apparent upon comparing the variety with females from the Philippines, but these are not considered of specific importance.

Described from a holotype female and an allotype male from Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, May 25 and October 7, 1944, E. S. Ross coll.

Melanoxanthus luteus, new species

Length 4.7-5.2 mm.

Moderately robust; yellowish brown with vertex of head, pronotum (usually on anterior part of disc), greater part of elytra (except base), darker brown; antennae and legs light yellowish brown. Pubescence, fine, short, yellow.

Front of head flattened, with vague median prominence; anterior margin arcuate, prominent but not reflexed; punctation close, fairly coarse. Antennae short, slightly longer in male than in female; segment 3 slightly longer than 2, the two together subequal in length to 4.

Prothorax (measured along median lines) slightly longer than wide (male), or about as long as wide (female); sides rectilinearly narrowed forward from about basal one-third (male), or arcuately narrowed from about middle (female). Pronotum moderately convex; punctation uniform, dense, somewhat finer than on head; channelled on basal

declivity; hind angles diverging little, if at all, from outline of sides, strongly uncarinate, the carina close to lateral margin.

Scutellum flat, elongate, sides subparallel on basal one-half, acute at apex; anterior margin excavate.

Elytra as wide at humeri as prothorax; sides parallel to about middle (male), or beyond (female), thence conjointly narrowed to rounded apex. Striae consisting of well-impressed punctures; intervals flat.

Underside more or less uniformly yellowish brown, with prosternum and legs lighter. Mucro directed backward on same plane as rest of prosternum; sides of mesosternal cavity declivous.

Holotype female, Civil Administration Area, Moen Is., Truk atoll, Caroline Islands, April 27, 1949, R. W. L. Potts; allotype male, same data, March 7, 1949; 1 paratype female, same data, March 25, 1949, and 1 paratype male, same data, February 10, 1949.

This species possesses no very distinctive characters. The dark brown suffusion on the pronotum varies in extent, and in one individual attains the lateral margins.

***Melanoxanthus melanocephalus* (F.)**

A specimen from Tahiti, Society Islands, July, 1916, collected by R. Topping provides the first record of this species from this archipelago.

***Melanoxanthus subcylindricus* Candèze**

Dr. E. S. Ross took 14 specimens of this species at Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, in September and October, 1944. New Guinea is a new locality record for this insect which until now has been recorded only from the Moluccas (Batchian is the type locality), the Aru Islands and Luzon. Dr. Ross's specimens differ from the description (*Élatérides nouveaux*, 1:35, 1865) and from a male from Luzon, identified by Edmond Fleutiaux, in having the hind angles of the pronotum rufous instead of concolorous with the rest of the pronotum. The New Guinea insects have the basal markings on the elytra larger and less circular than in the Philippine example, and the scutellum notably more tumid. The male genitalia of the specimens from the two localities are apparently identical.

***Eschatroxus rossi*, new species**

7.5-8.0 mm. long; about 0.9-1.0 mm. wide.

Uniformly black above except as modified by pubescence. Pubescence generally erect and black; on pronotum, just before middle of lateral margin, and at right angles to it, a fascia of recumbent, golden yellow pubescence extends mediad about half-way to disc, then turns posteriad and continues almost to hind angles; vestiture on anterior and hind angles of pronotum gray; sutural line of elytra margined with gray hairs; a few gray hairs among the black on dorsal surface. Beneath, black except for anterior one-half, or more, of prosternum, which is vaguely rufous, and basal one-half, or more, of femora, which are yellowish red; pubescence on underside fine, gray, thickest on sides of abdomen.

Front finely margined, reflexed at sides, subtruncate on middle; anterior part of disc convex. Antennae robust, more or less attaining tips of hind prothoracic angles; segment 2 subglobular; 3 slightly shorter than 4 and following, but narrower; 4-10 subequal, broadly triangular, a little longer than wide; 11 suboval, about as long as 10.

Prothorax about as long as wide; sides subparallel to anterior one-fourth, thence arcuately narrowed to apex. Pronotum convex; punctation extremely fine; hind angles stout, slightly divergent, bluntly uncarinate; basal declivity moderate with a median channel which is deeper anteriorly than at bottom of declivity.

Scutellum elongate, tumid, sides subparallel; rounded at apex.

Elytra at humeri as wide as prothorax; sides parallel to beyond middle, thence conjointly narrowed to apex, which, on each wingcover is obliquely, shallowly emarginate; outer angle of emargination shorter and more acute than inner. Disc of elytra flattened; striae consisting of rows of well-impressed punctures; intervals moderately convex.

Described from a holotype, believed to be a male, and a probable male paratype, both from Maffin Bay, Dutch New Guinea, June, 1944, E. S. Ross coll.

This species is remarkable for its almost uniformly black upper surface, modified only by a small area of yellowish pubescence.

Melanotus guambatae Van Zwaluwenburg

A new archipelago and island record for this species is supplied by a specimen collected on Los Negros, Admiralty Islands, April, 1945, by G. E. Bohart.